

Filed for intro on 03/15/2000

HOUSE RESOLUTION 153
By Brooks

A RESOLUTION to express a deep sense of outrage and remorse
relative to the tragic death of Amadou Diallo.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of the House of Representatives of this General Assembly should lead the good and law-abiding citizens of the Great State of Tennessee in expressing our intent to do what is right and proper under law; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators desires to lead this House and this General Assembly in making a clear statement of intent in the wake of the acquittal of four police officers in the shooting death of West African immigrant, Amadou Diallo; and

WHEREAS, Amadou Diallo, a West African immigrant from Guinea, was fatally shot by New York City Police Officers Sean Carroll, Edward McMellon, Richard Murphy, and Kenneth Boss in front of his Bronx apartment at approximately midnight on February 4, 1999; upon being approached by the officers, Mr. Diallo had innocently pulled his wallet from his right pocket, which the police officers claim they construed to be the act of drawing a gun; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Diallo was hit 19 times by the hail of 41 bullets the officers shot at him and died almost immediately; witnesses state that the four members of the elite Street Crimes

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Unit of the New York City Police Department did not identify themselves as police officers to Mr. Diallo, as they approached him from the curb in front of his apartment; and

WHEREAS, the officers were searching for a serial rapist, who had made multiple attacks within a short period of time, when they fatally shot Mr. Diallo; during their three-week trial, the officers faced charges of two counts each of second-degree murder and one count each of first-degree reckless endangerment, and faced 25 years to life imprisonment, if convicted of the most serious charges; and

WHEREAS, on February 25th, 2000, the four white police officers were acquitted of all charges in the shooting death of the unarmed Amadou Diallo in the cramped vestibule of his Bronx apartment; this verdict is a travesty of justice and demonstrates a complete breakdown of our judicial system; and

WHEREAS, this verdict has served to further incite fear and mistrust between the African American community and law enforcement officers nationwide, in the wake of the beating and sodomy of Haitian immigrant Abner Louima by New York City police officers and the fatal shooting by police of the unconscious Tyisha Miller in Riverside California and grandmother Eleanor Bumpers in New York City, all of whom were victims of excessive police force under very suspicious circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the members of this House want it made extremely clear that such misconduct on the part of Tennessee state troopers, our cities' police officers, or any law enforcement officers under Tennessee's jurisdiction will not be tolerated, under any circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly acknowledges and appreciates the many accomplishments African Americans and other minorities have made to this great state and nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That this House joins the

Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators in expressing outrage and remorse over the acquittal of the four white police officers involved in the shooting death of the unarmed West African immigrant, Amadou Diallo.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we reiterate that police brutality and the usage of excessive force against minorities in the state of Tennessee is **not** sanctioned nor tolerated.